AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 55, 56, 63, 64, 71, 72, 79 and 80 without prejudice to further

prosecution of their subject matter in this or another application, and please amend claims 54,

62, 70, 78, 86, 88, 90 and 91 as provided in the following complete listing of the claims.

1-53.   (Previously cancelled).

54.   (Currently Amended)   A method for managing a storage area network (SAN), the method

comprising:

defining storage domains respectively having associated configurable storage

management properties that are separate from individual physical capabilities of

physical storage resources available through the SAN, wherein a first set of

storage management properties is associated with a first storage domain and a

second set of storage management properties is associated with a second storage

domain, with the first set of storage management properties being different

from the second set of storage management properties;

accommodating the creation of logical volumes configurable for presentation to hosts

through the SAN; and

allocating the logical volumes to hosts in the context of the storage domains, wherein

allocating a first logical volume to a first host in the context of the first storage

domain entails the provision of storage resources according to the first set of

storage management properties and allocating a second volume to a second host

in the context of the second storage domain entails the provision of storage

resources according to the second set of storage management properties

wherein presentation of logical volumes to hosts accommodates storage resource

access by hosts without requiring hosts to be configured according to the

requirements of the physical storage resources, and wherein said allocation of

the first logical volume to the first host entails the provision of storage

resources according to the first set of storage management properties and said

allocation of the second logical volume to the second host subject entails the

provision of storage resources according to the second set of storage

management properties even though the first logical volume and second logical

volume are created from physical storage resources in common.

55.　(Canceled).

56.　(Canceled).

57.　(Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the storage management

properties comprise a guaranteed storage capacity.

58.　(Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the storage management

properties comprise a guaranteed I/O properties that include an I/O bandwidth and/or an I/O

operations.

59.　(Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the storage management

properties comprise a guaranteed availability.

60.　(Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the storage management

properties comprise a guaranteed performance.

61.　(Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the storage management

properties comprise a guaranteed integrity.

62. (Currently Amended)   A computer program product for managing a storage area network

(SAN), the computer program product stored on a computer readable medium and adapted to

perform operations comprising:

> defining storage domains respectively having associated configurable storage
>
> > management properties that are separate from individual physical capabilities of
> >
> > physical storage resources available through the SAN, wherein a first set of
> >
> > storage management properties is associated with a first storage domain and a
> >
> > second set of storage management properties is associated with a second storage
> >
> > domain, with the first set of storage management properties being different
> >
> > from the second set of storage management properties;
>
> accommodating the creation of logical volumes configurable for presentation to hosts
>
> > through the SAN; and
>
> allocating the logical volumes to hosts in the context of the storage domains, wherein
>
> > allocating a first logical volume to a first host in the context of the first storage
> >
> > domain entails the provision of storage resources according to the first set of
> >
> > storage management properties and allocating a second volume to a second host
> >
> > in the context of the second storage domain entails the provision of storage
> >
> > resources according to the second set of storage management properties,
>
> wherein presentation of logical volumes to hosts accommodates storage resource
>
> > access by hosts without requiring hosts to be configured according to the
> >
> > requirements of the physical storage resources, and wherein said allocation of
> >
> > the first logical volume to the first host entails the provision of storage
> >
> > resources according to the first set of storage management properties and said
> >
> > allocation of the second logical volume to the second host subject entails the

provision of storage resources according to the second set of storage

management properties even though the first logical volume and second logical

volume are created from physical storage resources in common.

63.   (Canceled).

64.   (Canceled).

65.   (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of claim 62, wherein the storage

management properties comprise a guaranteed storage capacity.

66.   (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of claim 62, wherein the storage

management properties comprise a guaranteed I/O properties that include an I/O bandwidth

and/or an I/O operations.

67.   (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of claim 62, wherein the storage

management properties comprise a guaranteed availability.

68.   (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of claim 62, wherein the storage

management properties comprise a guaranteed performance.

69.   (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of claim 62, wherein the storage

management properties comprise a guaranteed integrity.

70.   (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for managing a storage area network (SAN), the

apparatus comprising:

      means for defining storage domains respectively having associated configurable

           storage management properties that are separate from individual physical

           capabilities of physical storage resources available through the SAN, wherein a

           first set of storage management properties is associated with a first storage

           domain and a second set of storage management properties is associated with a

second storage domain, with the first set of storage management properties

being different from the second set of storage management properties;

means for accommodating the creation of logical volumes configurable for presentation

to hosts through the SAN; and

means for allocating the logical volumes to hosts in the context of the storage domains,

wherein allocating a first logical volume to a first host in the context of the first

storage domain entails the provision of storage resources according to the first

set of storage management properties and allocating a second volume to a

second host in the context of the second storage domain entails the provision of

storage resources according to the second set of storage management properties

wherein presentation of logical volumes to hosts accommodates storage resource

access by hosts without requiring hosts to be configured according to the

requirements of the physical storage resources, and wherein said allocation of

the first logical volume to the first host entails the provision of storage

resources according to the first set of storage management properties and said

allocation of the second logical volume to the second host subject entails the

provision of storage resources according to the second set of storage

management properties even though the first logical volume and second logical

volume are created from physical storage resources in common.

71.   (Canceled).

72.   (Canceled).

73.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the storage management

properties comprise a guaranteed storage capacity.

74.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the storage management properties comprise a guaranteed I/O properties that include an I/O bandwidth and/or an I/O operations.

75.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the storage management properties comprise a guaranteed availability.

76.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the storage management properties comprise a guaranteed performance.

77.   (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of claim 70, wherein the storage management properties comprise a guaranteed integrity.

78.   (Currently Amended)   A storage area network (SAN) that accommodates presentation of logical volumes to hosts and associates access to storage with configurable storage management properties defined by a storage domain, the storage area network comprising:

storage domains respectively defined to have associated configurable storage

management properties that are separate from individual physical capabilities of

physical storage resources available through the SAN, wherein a first set of

storage management properties is associated with a first storage domain and a

second set of storage management properties is associated with a second storage

domain, with the first set of storage management properties being different

from the second set of storage management properties;

logical volumes configurable for presentation to hosts through the SAN; and

means for allocating the logical volumes to hosts in the context of the storage domains,

wherein allocating a first logical volume to a first host in the context of the first

storage domain entails the provision of storage resources according to the first

set of storage management properties and allocating a second volume to a

second host in the context of the second storage domain entails the provision of

storage resources according to the second set of storage management properties

wherein presentation of logical volumes to hosts accommodates storage resource

access by hosts without requiring hosts to be configured according to the

requirements of the physical storage resources, and wherein said allocation of

the first logical volume to the first host entails the provision of storage

resources according to the first set of storage management properties and said

allocation of the second logical volume to the second host subject entails the

provision of storage resources according to the second set of storage

management properties even though the first logical volume and second logical

volume are created from physical storage resources in common.

79.   (Canceled).

80.   (Canceled).

81.   (Previously Presented)   The SAN of claim 78, wherein the storage management properties

comprise a guaranteed storage capacity.

82.   (Previously Presented)   The SAN of claim 78, wherein the storage management properties

comprise a guaranteed I/O properties that include an I/O bandwidth and/or an I/O operations.

83.   (Previously Presented)   The SAN of claim 78, wherein the storage management properties

comprise a guaranteed availability.

84.   (Previously Presented)   The SAN of claim 78, wherein the storage management properties

comprise a guaranteed performance.

85.   (Previously Presented)   The SAN of claim 78, wherein the storage management properties

comprise a guaranteed integrity.

86.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim ~~56~~ 54, wherein the first set of storage management properties includes a first class of service and the second set of storage management properties ~~including~~ includes a second class of service, whereby access of the ~~common volume~~ first and second volumes by the first and second hosts entails differing classes of service.

87.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 54, wherein the first and second sets of storage management properties are softly configured such that they are reconfigurable without requiring an update of the connections to the physical storage resources.

88.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product of claim ~~64~~ 62, wherein the first set of storage management properties includes a first class of service and the second set of storage management properties ~~including~~ includes a second class of service, whereby access of the ~~common volume~~ first and second volumes by the first and second hosts entails differing classes of service.

89.   (Previously Presented)   The computer program product of claim 62, wherein the first and second sets of storage management properties are softly configured such that they are reconfigurable without requiring an update of the connections to the physical storage resources.

90.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim ~~70~~ 68, wherein the first set of storage management properties includes a first class of service and the second set of storage management properties ~~including~~ includes a second class of service, whereby access of the ~~common volume~~ first and second volumes by the first and second hosts entails differing classes of service.

91.   (Currently Amended)   The SAN of claim ~~80~~ 78, wherein the first set of storage management properties includes a first class of service and the second set of storage management properties ~~including~~ includes a second class of service, whereby access of the

~~common volume~~ <u>first and second volumes</u> by the first and second hosts entails differing classes

of service.

92.   (Previously Presented)   The SAN of claim 78, wherein the first and second sets of storage

management properties are softly configured such that they are reconfigurable without requiring

an update of the connections to the physical storage resources.